

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 30, 2011

Helen Lamont Ph.D.  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation  
Room 424E Humphrey Building  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Lamont:

I am writing to support Dr. Ronald Petersen's nomination to be a researcher on the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services as created by the National Alzheimer's Project Act (P. L. 111-375). As the Director of the Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Dr. Petersen is an international leader in Alzheimer's disease research, and his unrivaled expertise uniquely positions him to advance the work of the Advisory Council.

Dr. Petersen has dedicated his career to research on aging, cognitive impairment, and Alzheimer's disease, and has authored over 400 peer-reviewed articles and edited four books on these subjects. He currently serves as the Director of the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging and is the Chair of the Alzheimer's Association's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council. His career also includes four years of service as a Captain in the United States Army Biomedical Research Laboratory, and membership on advisory boards to numerous research and professional health organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Neurology.

As a highly regarded professional researcher in his field, Dr. Petersen has lectured extensively throughout the U.S. and the world on Alzheimer's disease and cognitive impairment. His distinguished career has gained him recognition by the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute, the American Academy of Neurology, and the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute.

Dr. Petersen's ongoing contributions to the field of Alzheimer's disease research and his commitment to public service make him an ideal candidate for a researcher position on the Advisory Council. I urge you to give Dr. Petersen's nomination the most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Franken', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al Franken  
United States Senator